MINUTES

OF THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

JEFFERSON ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

THE CHURCH AT LIBERTY CHAPEL,

ASHE COUNTY, N. C.,

Commencing September 4th, 1856.

ANNUAL SERMON BY ELDER S. ROSS.

ABINGDON, VA.:

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MINUTES.

LIBERTY CHAPEL, SEPT. 4TH, 1856.

The Association convened for the purpose of transacting the business of its Eighth Annual Ssesion pursuant to appointment, and after the delivery of the Annual Sermon by Elder S. Ross, was called to order by the Chairman.

1st. Delegates presented letters from eight of the Churches, which were read by the Clerk and the names of the delegates enrolled. Delegates appeared from the other Churches, and informed the Association that they had been duly appointed, but that their letters had been misplaced; when, upon motion, they were received, with the understanding that the Clerk is to be hereafter furnished with the statistics.

2d. Proceeded to the election of Officers. Eld. S. Ross was chosen Chairman, and J. H. PERKINS, Secretary.

3d. On motion, the Secretary was chosen Treasurer.

4th. Called for newly constituted Churches. Received one by the name of "Old Land Mark," situated in Ashe Co., N. C., and represented by the following brethren: Jackson Blevins, A. Barker, James Testerman and Wm. Barker.

5th. It was announced that another newly constituted Church desired admittance, but the members appointed to bear the letter not being yet present, the matter was deferred until their arrival.

6th. On motion, called for correspondence. Received as follows: From the Holston Association, Bro. W. B. Gambill, Eld. J. B. Stone. From the Brier Creek Asso., Eld. W. J. Chapel, Bros. Wm. Brotherton and John Sale. From the Yadkin Asso.—Eld. William G. Brown.

7. Invited transient Ministers to seats. H. B. Brown and Esquire Trivet accepted.

8. On motion, agreed that all select committees be appointed by the Chairman.

1st. Appointed A. G. Testerman, A. Blevins and James Blevins, with the Chairman and Secretary, a Committee of Arrangements, and invited corresponding delegates and transient Ministers to aid them.

2d. *On Religious Services.*—Wm. Young, Benj. S. Brown and Wm. Sheets, together with the Pastor and delegates from this Church.

3d. *On Finance.*—D. Sheets, J. B. Young, D. Blevins.

4th. *On Resolutions.*—J. B. Stone, W. G. Brown, James Blevins, J. H. Perkins.

9. A motion was then made by Brother J. B. Young to appoint a committee on correspondence, upon which, a very interesting debate arose between Brethren Jas. Blevins, J. B. Young, W. G. Brown and J. B. Stone. The motion was at length withdrawn.

10. On motion, adjourned till to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. W. J. Chapel.

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 5TH.

Delegates met according to adjournment, and after engaging in singing and prayer with the Chairman, proceeded to business.

1st. Called the names of the delegates. 2d. Received the letter recommending the delegates from the White Top Church.

3d. The delegates from the newly constituted Church previously spoken of, presented their petition for admittance into this Association, the petition was read by the Clerk, and upon motion the delegates were received. The Church is named "Pleasant Home," situated in Johnson Co., Tenn., and represented by brethren Joseph Gilbert and Robert Perdew.

4. The Committee of Arrangements reported the order of business and were discharged.

5. Called on correspondents to report. Elder J. S. Loyd attended the Brier Creek and Yadkin. Others who were appointed to the Brier Creek failed to go, and on motion of J. B. Young were rebuked. Those who were appointed to the Yadkin and failed to attend were excused. Elder S. Ross and brethren W. W. Brown and W. G. Young attended the Holston, others who were appointed and failed to go were excused.

6. Appointed correspondents to sister Associations, as follows:—To Lebanon Association, at Bethel, Thursday before 3d Friday of Sept. 1856, Elder R. Lewis and brother Hugh Cole. To Brier Creek, at Liberty, 6½ miles south-east of Wilksboro', N. C., Saturday before the 4th Sabbath in Sept. 1856, Elds. J. S. Loyd, A. Blevins, and brothers Jas. Blevins and David Sheets. To Yadkin, at Cross Road Church, 6 miles south-west of Huntsville, N. C., Thursday before the first Sabbath in Octr. 1856, Elds. A. Blevins, J. S. Loyd, and brethren James Blevins and David Sheets. To Holston, with the Church at Little Doe, Johnson County, Tenn., second Friday in August, 1857, James Blevins, Wm. Sheets, David Sheets, Daniel Blevins, Jackson Blevins, A. Blevins, Hugh Cole, A. Barker and Wm. Barker.

7. There being two petitions before the Association for the next session, viz:—from Baptist Chapel and Sugar Grove, the

Association proceeded to appoint the delegates from those Churches to settle the matter between themselves.

8. On motion, proceeded to choose (or elect) by private ballot, a man to preach the Annual Sermon and also his alternate. Elder Robt. Lewis was chosen to preach the Sermon and Elder J. S. Loyd alternate.

9. The Committee to select the place for the next session, reported Sugar Grove,—and on motion, the committee were discharged.

10. On motion, took a recess 30 minutes.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The Association resumed its business. 1st. On motion, agreed to have preaching to-night at Sister Walters' and at Jefferson.

2d. Clerk instructed to prepare corresponding letters to sister Associations.

3d. On motion of Elder Loyd, brother J. H. Perkins was appointed to write a circular on covetousness, to be read at the next Association.

4. Appointed Jackson Blevins, James Blevins and J. H. Perkins to revise and amend the constitution and report to-morrow.

5. On motion, adjourned till to-morrow, 9 o'clock. Prayer by brother Trivet.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 6TH.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

1st. Called the delegates' names. 2d. Another invitation was given to correspondents. Received from the Brier Creek Association brother Bennet Winsor.

3d. Read and corrected the minutes of yesterday.

4th. The Clerk presented corresponding letters, which were received.

Financial committee reported and on motion were discharged.

5. Treasurer's report received, which is as follows:

Treasurer's Report.

Jno. H. Perkins in acc't with Jefferson Association, Sept. 6th, 1856. Dr. Amt. acknowledged in minutes of 1855,		$18.00
Cr by cash paid for printing minutes for same year,		$15.00
" By Secretary's Fee,		6.00
		$21.00
Association in arrears,	$3.00	

The Treasurer also reported that the money collected at the

last Association and placed in his hands to be appropriated to the benefit of Bro. Roberts in China was still in hishands, the reasons rendered for this seemed to be satisfactory to the Association, and on motion, the Treasurer was directed to forward the amount, $7,43¾, to the Board of Foreign Missions, Richmond, Virginia, to be expended for Missionary purposes in China, at its discretion.

Amended the 7th article of the rules of decorum to read as follows:—"No member shall have liberty of laughing, or unnecessary whispering, during the time the Association is on business."

On motion, the Committee to revise and amend the constitution reported, and were discharged. (See Constitution.)

The President of the Jefferson Association Bible Society reported, that he called a meeting of the Board according to the requisition of the last session, but the Secretary failed to attend, or to deliver to the President any property belonging to the society whatever.

On motion, took a recess 30 minutes.

SATURDAY EVENING.

The Delegates resumed their business. Agreed to take up a public collection to-morrow at the close of the second sermon for home missions. The committee on resolutions reported and were discharged.

RESOLUTIONS.

1st. *Resolved*, That this Association, as christians and citizens of the land, can neither fellowship, nor respect, the moral and christian character of persons, and more especially, professed ministers of the Gospel, who will ridicule and denounce immersion as unscriptural, indecent and disgusting, and yet, in order to receive or retain members, sanction or administer it in the name of the Holy Trinity for Christian Baptism.

2d. *Resolved*, That we feel ourselves bound as a Christian body to oppose all such inconsistency, and profanation of God's ordinance, and that we advise our ministers, and editors, throughout the land, to be indefatigable in its exposure, both in the Pulpit and by the Press.

3d. *Resolved further*, That we hold Infant Baptism as unscriptural, and fraught with evil consequences, and that we advise all whose minds are open for instruction upon the subject, to Doctor Howell's "Evils of Infant Baptism."

4th. WHEREAS, It is sufficiently obvious, we think, and is believed by all Baptists that Christian Baptism consists in the immersion of a true believer in the name of the Trinity by a

proper administrator,—and whereas such act is pre-requisite to Church membership and must be submitted to before an individual can be legally and scripturally ordained to the Gospel Ministry:—

Resolved, therefore, That this Association fully indorse a tract written by Elder James M. Pendleton, of Bowlingreen, Ky., and published by Graves, Marks and Rutland, Nashville, Tenn., entitled "An Old Land Mark Reset."

5th. *Resolved further*, That we hereby indorse "The Great Iron Wheel," "Theodosia Ernest," and Orchard's History of Foreign Baptists," and cheerfully recommend them to all the reading world.

6th. *Resolved*, That in future the Pastoral year of this Association begin with the Associational year.

7th. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are hereby given to the citizens of the vicinity of Jefferson, for their kindness to us during the present session.

WILLIAM G. BROWN, *Chairman.*

(The above resolutions were passed by a large majority. The first, however, was strenuously opposed by some of the more lenient, who seemed to sympathize to a considerable extent with our Methodist friends, and to express great alarm, for fear that by the adoption of such a resolution we would proscribe the whole denomination. "*Mirabile dictu!*" and what a fine thing it is to be *liberal.* The reader will see, however, that the resolution says nothing about Methodists, nor any other religious sect. But that the Association refuses to fellowship individuals, let them belong to what sect they may, whether to any or not, who will denounce and act as unscriptural, &c., and then sanction or practice it in the name of the Holy Trinity. Surely we cannot be considered testaceous in this: we wish no one to wear the shoe except it fits.)

The following resolution was adopted by motion:

WHEREAS, the former Secretary of the Jefferson Association Bible Society has failed to comply with the request of the last Association, and the call of the President to deliver to him the property belonging to said society,—

Resolved, therefore, That we advise the former President and Treasurer, to meet with the friends and citizens, at Baptist Chapel, Ashe Co., N. C., on the 1st Saturday in November next, for the purpose of organizing a Bible Society.

On motion of bro. J. B. Young, agreed that the Jefferson Association in future, commence on Friday instead of Thursday.

Appointed Elder J. S. Loyd and Brother Wm. Young, to represent us in the next annual meeting of the Western Va.

Association, and agree to place the funds in their hands sufficient to defray the expense of membership; and also, traveling to and from said Association.

Instructed the clerk to superintend the printing and distribution of 600 copies of the Minutes,—and agree to allow him $6,00 for his services.

No report having been offered by the school committee appointed at our last session, the following preamble and resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the committee appointed at our last session, to select a site for a high school in the bounds of the Jefferson Association, having made no report,—

Resolved therefore, That this Association take the subject again into consideration, and that the location for said school be decided by a vote in the following manner, viz: One vote to be allowed for every $10 subscribed by a responsible person or persons, to be paid when needed, in any way, to carry the said school into operation; and that James Blevins, Daniel Blevins, J. H. Perkins and J. B. Young, be a committee to take subscriptions, and to compare the vote at Young's Chapel on the 2d Saturday in June next, and report the result to the next Association.

On motion, adjourned to meet with the Church at Sugar Grove, Smyth Co., Va., Friday before the 1st Sabbath in September, 1857. Prayer by Elder W. G. Brown.

S. ROSS, MODERATOR.

J. H. PERKINS, Sec'y. Big Meadow, Va.

Mouth of Wilson, Grayson Co., Va.

Sabbath Services.—The stage was occupied by Elders A. Blevins, J. B. Stone and Wm. G. Brown. These three discourses were quite impressively delivered to a large and well ordered assembly. We are happy to say, that we scarcely have witnessed more respectable behavior in so large an assembly on any occasion. Posse comitatus, seemed to manifest a deep interest in the proclamation of the Gospel, and conducted themselves in a way calculated to give credit to the people of any community. We confidently hope that our efforts to do good in this vicinity will not be unavailable.

According to previous arrangement a collection was taken at the close of the second sermon, amounting to $5,50, which was left in the hands of brother William Young. CLERK.

CONSTITUTION OF THE JEFFERSON ASSOCIATION.

ART. 1. This institution shall be known by the name of the *Jefferson Association*, and shall be composed of four delegates

or representatives, chosen by each Church in our Union, each Church giving to her representatives letters certifying their appointment,

ART. 2. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular and proper decorum.

ART. 3. The standing officers of this Association, shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer; all of whom shall be elected annually by the suffrages of the members present, and shall be responsible to the Association for the faithful performance of the duties devolving upon them in their several offices.

ART. 4. New Churches having been constituted upon the Articles of Faith as adopted by this Association, by complying with the requisitions of this Constitution, shall, upon presenting a petition to that effect, be admitted into union with the Association.

ART. 5. The Association shall have power to withdraw from any Church in her union that may become heretical in principle, corrupt in practice, or that may violate this constitution, and continue to do so.

Art 6. This Association may correspond with other Associations, and admit delegates from such to sit in this body, who shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association except voting.

ART. 7. The missionary subject shall at no time be a test of fellowship in this Association. But every Church should have liberty to aid or to refuse to aid, in the missionary cause; and such co-operation shall at no time be made a test of fellowship.

ART. 8. The annual proceedings of this body shall be recorded by the Secretary, who shall prepare them for the press, and have them printed and distributed among the Churches; he being allowed a reasonable compensation for his services, which, together with the expenses of printing, shall be paid by the Treasurer out of the money that shall be deposited in his hands by the Association for that purpose.

ART. 9. The Association shall meet at each annual session, designate a place, and appoint a time for the next annual session.

ART. 10. If at any annual session, any church shall fail to represent itself, the Asso. shall proceed to inquire into the cause.

ART. 11. This constitution shall be subject to amendment, by a concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the Association at its annual session.

ORDAINED MINISTERS WITH THEIR P. O. ADDRESS.—Armstrong Blevins, Big Helton, N. C.; J. S. Loyd, Jefferson, N. C.; S. Ross, Big Meadow, Va.

LICENTIATES.—Jackson Blevins, Big Helton, N. C.; P. L. Shuler, Bridle Creek, Virginia; W. P. Walters, Big Helton, North Carolina.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	DATES	DELEGATES.	Ch Meetings-Sab	By Baptism.	By Letter.	By Application.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	In Fellowship.	Contributions.
Apple Grove,	Ashe, N. C.	1854	Elder A. Blevins, Edward Blevins, D. Blevins, A. Penington,	2	1		1					30	2 00
Baptist Chapel,	" "	1842	J. Blevins, E. Francis, W. Thompson, Eli Blevins.	1	5	1			16	7		82	3 55
Baptist Union,	Grayson, Va.	1842	Elder S. Ross, P. L. Shuler, A. T. Testerman, S. Perkins.	1				1	2	2	1	98	3 35
Friendship,	" "	1852	S. F. Ross, Thomas Handy.	4					2	1		14	90
Liberty Chapel,	Ashe, N. C.	1847	E. Pope, C. Campbell, J. Garvy, J. Walters.	4						2		25	1 60
Mount Pleasant,	" "	1849	Elder J. S. Loyd, D. Blevins, S. Blackbern, J. Green.	3	6				6	1		45	1 50
Old Landmark,	" "	1856	Jackson Blevins, A. Barker, J. Testerman, W. Barker.	4								22	1 25
Pleasant Home,	Johnson, Tenn.	1856	R. W. Hawkins, R. Perdew, J. Gilbert, E. Dixon,	3		1	4					17	1 00
Sugar Grove,	Smyth, Va.	1842	Wm. Sheets, Hugh Cole.	3	14	7	1		1			68	2 10
Union,	Ashe, N. C.	1853	W. Roark, B. S. Brown, N. Estridge.	2								22	1 50
White Top,	Grayson, Va.	1847	W. Blevins, Uriah Huffman, J. Lewis, E. Hart.	4	4		1		18			32	2 00
Young's Chapel,	" "	1845	D. Sheets, J. B. Young, Wm. Young, J. H. Perkins.	2	2					4		50	3 10
			Totals, - - - - - - - - -		32	9	7	1	45	17	1	505	23 85